

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-32 are pending in the current application. Claims 1-7, 9-19 and 21-32 are currently rejected. Claims 2, 3, 4, 10, 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, and 32 have been amended.

Claim objections

The Examiner objects to claims 2, 10, 18, and 21 as unclear regarding behavior of the graphical user interface. Applicants have amended each of these claims to clarify that a user interacts with the GUI to achieve the recited steps. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections.

The Examiner objects to claim 28 for reciting “second selectively populating,” alleging that the claim does not make sense. Applicants have amended claims 19, 21, 25, and 26 to recite a “first selectively populating” in order to differentiate this step from the “second selectively populating” step in claim 28. If the Examiner prefers an alternate method of differentiating similar but distinct steps, Applicants are willing to amend the claims as the Examiner may request. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of these objections.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the O’Sullivan publication (“O’Sullivan”) in view of US Pat. 5,414,809 to Hogan et al. (“Hogan”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Regarding claims 1, 19, and 32, the Examiner alleges that O’Sullivan teaches each element of these claims with the exception of “one or more loading tools for selecting and moving a filtered fuel table,” but alleges this limitation is taught by Hogan. Applicants respectfully submit that both O’Sullivan and Hogan are silent with regard to “sorting,

filtering, and moving . . . based on one or more fuel attributes” as recited in amended claims 1, 19, 32.

Specifically, O’Sullivan discloses only a simple “drag and drop” fuel bundle moving method. O’Sullivan p. 2. O’Sullivan fails to suggest a tool that can move, let alone sort and filter, fuel bundles based on at least one shared fuel attribute. O’Sullivan, rather, teaches away from the use of a tool to select and move fuel bundles in the GUI based on fuel attributes by stating that the “engineer can swap assembly locations in the core or ‘drag and drop’ assemblies and their modeling data.” O’Sullivan p. 2. That is, O’Sullivan strongly implies that the engineer alone selects and moves bundles based on no particular criteria.

Hogan discloses only a “selecting and moving” of non-nuclear data from one pane to another and is silent with regard to any attributes that qualify the data for selecting and moving. Even if Hogan were adaptable to O’Sullivan’s nuclear-related method (a position with which Applicants do not agree based on O’Sullivan’s teaching away discussed above), there is still no teaching or suggestion of selecting, sorting, filtering, and moving tools based on fuel attributes as recited in the amended claims. Without this specific tool element, Hogan and O’Sullivan cannot render the current claims obvious.

Because Hogan and O’Sullivan, alone or in combination, do not disclose or fairly suggest each and every element of claims 1, 19, and 32, but instead teach away from claim elements, they cannot render obvious these claims. Claims 2-7, 9-18, and 20-32, dependent from one of claims 1, 19, or 32, are allowable at least for depending from an allowable base claim. Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-7, 9-19, and 21-32 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Gary D. Yacura at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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